

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 06666 070051Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /058 W
 -----073072 070055Z /66

P R 061610Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9822
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 6666

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF
SUBJECT: DEATH OF STEVE BIKO: INQUEST AFTERMATH

REF: PRETORIA 6585

1. ACCORDING TO DEC. 5 PRESS REPORT, PRETORIA CHIEF
MAGISTRATE MARTHINUS PRINS STATED THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND
TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR HIS DEC. 2 FINDING IN THE BIKO
INQUEST. PRINS SAID, "I MADE A FINDING IN TERMS OF
THE ACT AND THAT CONCLUDED MY DUTY..AS FAR AS I AM
CONCERNED, THAT IS THE END OF IT."

2. PRINS REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT HE WILL REVIEW THE COURT RECORD
FOR INDICATIONS OF PROFESSIONAL MISCONDUCT ON THE PART
OF THE DOCTORS AND DECIDE WHETHER THE RECORD SHOULD
BE FORWARDED TO THE MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL FOR
DISCIPLINARY ACTION. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS,
BIKO'S WIDOW, NTSIKI, MAY LODGE A COMPLAINT WITH
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THE COUNCIL AGAINST THE DOCTORS WHO "TREATED" BIKO.
ACCORDING TO BIKO FAMILY ATTORNEY, SHUN CHETTY,
NEXT STEP WILL BE A CIVIL SUIT AGAINST POLICE.
DEC. 4/5 PRESS SPECULATED SUIT MAY BE AGAINST
MINISTER OF POLICE JIMMY KRUGER AND MINISTER OF
HEALTH DR. SCHALK VAN DER MERWE AS CHIEF PERSONS
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SECURITY POLICE AND DISTRICT

SURGEONS. CHETTY IS QUOTED IN PRESS AS SAYING
"A CLAIM FOR DAMAGES WILL HAVE TO BE BROUGHT QUITE
SOON. IN TERMS OF THE PRESCRIPTION ACT, CIVIL ACTIONS
HAVE TO BE BROUGHT WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE EVENT-
IN THIS CASE THE OCCURANCE WHICH GAVE RISE TO MR.
BIKO'S DEATH. THIS MEANS WE WILL HAVE TO ESTIMATE (SIC) IT
FROM AUGUST 18, THE DATE ON WHICH MR. BIKO WAS DETAINED."
CHETTY DECLINED TO COMMENT PUBLICLY ON WHO WILL BE
SUED AND FOR HOW MUCH.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR06666
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770453-0253
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771288/aaaacwqf.tel
Line Count: 72
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF
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